



**Director of
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OPEC: Test of Unity

The decision announced last weekend by OPEC to reduce total crude output to about 17.5 million barrels per day will not of itself prevent further price negotiations in the next few months. Saudi Arabia, however, has stated its willingness to cut production below 7 million barrels per day if necessary to defend the \$34 benchmark price. The ministers appointed a monitoring committee to report on violations of the agreement.

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Comment: The decline in world oil consumption has not ended, and oil company attempts to unload excess inventories continue. OPEC members, however, probably will take any further steps necessary to prevent a collapse of the price structure. The longer the demand for OPEC oil remains depressed, however, the greater the likelihood that some members will cheat on the agreement to provide revenues for their depressed economies. Iranian exports may already be as much as 500,000 barrels per day more than other OPEC members believe.

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SPECIAL ANALYSIS

⑪ GHANA: New Regime's Bleak Prospects

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1/3 Ghana remains in political and economic disarray three months after the coup. Administrative and security institutions are barely functioning, the government lacks direction, and Head of State Rawlings is unable to consolidate power. Rawlings is not an ideologue, but he is easily swayed by radical associates who have gained ascendancy and whose actions he cannot control. The regime is relying on Libyan-inspired and radical-controlled "People's Defense Committees" to build a political base.

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3 The armed forces are near collapse, and many officers have gone into hiding, retired, or fled the country. Chief of Defense Staff Nunoo-Mensah and Army Chief Quainoo--both moderates--still command some respect, but personal rivalries hamper their efforts to restore order. Radicals, meanwhile, have gained control of the internal security apparatus, which is in a state of disorder.

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4/8 2 Numerous reports of violence and harassment of civilians indicate continuing lack of discipline by enlisted personnel. Several soldiers who are members of Rawlings's Ewe tribe reportedly attempted to kill him earlier this month.

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1 The government has not been able to devise an economic program. It also has rejected devaluation, a basic condition for an IMF agreement and continued Western aid, and food and fuel shortages are becoming worse.

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1 Rawlings has made sweeping promises to reduce food imports by 1983 and is exhorting all able-bodied Ghanaians to work in the fields. The approaching period of food scarcity from May to July, before the harvest begins, will increase the potential for civil unrest.

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Drift in Foreign Relations

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8 Although Rawlings is not anti-American, radicals find the US a convenient scapegoat for Ghana's problems. The recent expulsion of two US employees of an aluminum firm for alleged subversion and the accompanying anti-US rhetoric may foreshadow more attacks. Radical students have threatened a takeover of the US Embassy if it is not moved to a less central location in Accra.

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1 Libya thus far is the regime's only supporter, although Qadhafi has not come through with massive aid as the Ghanaians had hoped. About 40 to 60 Libyans are in Ghana, but it is not known whether any are military or security advisers. Libyan cargo flights have delivered food and small arms and ammunition.

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1 Negotiations for a 15-year oil supply contract are continuing. Nigeria, which normally supplies 80 percent of Ghana's oil on generous credit terms, has insisted since the coup that sales be for cash.

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Outlook

1 The regime's prospects are bleak, but it has no cohesive opposition, and it probably will stagger along. Deteriorating economic and security conditions, together with radical efforts to restructure society, promise continued chaos. To retrieve the situation, the radicals are likely to push for more repression and even closer ties with Libya.

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1 Deeper Libyan involvement could provide a catalyst for more domestic opposition and cause Ghanaian exiles to redouble their efforts. The exile groups, however, lack unity and significant sources of military and financial support. The public probably would not rally to the exiles, most of whom retain ties to the discredited Limann regime.

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If the radicals in Accra can close ranks and broaden their popular support, they could attempt to push Rawlings aside in their quest to revolutionize Ghanaian society. They also would have to neutralize moderate Army officers who could try to resist. Any successor to Rawlings, however, probably would have no better success in dealing with the country's problems.

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